## Nephopteris, a New Genus of Ferns from Colombia

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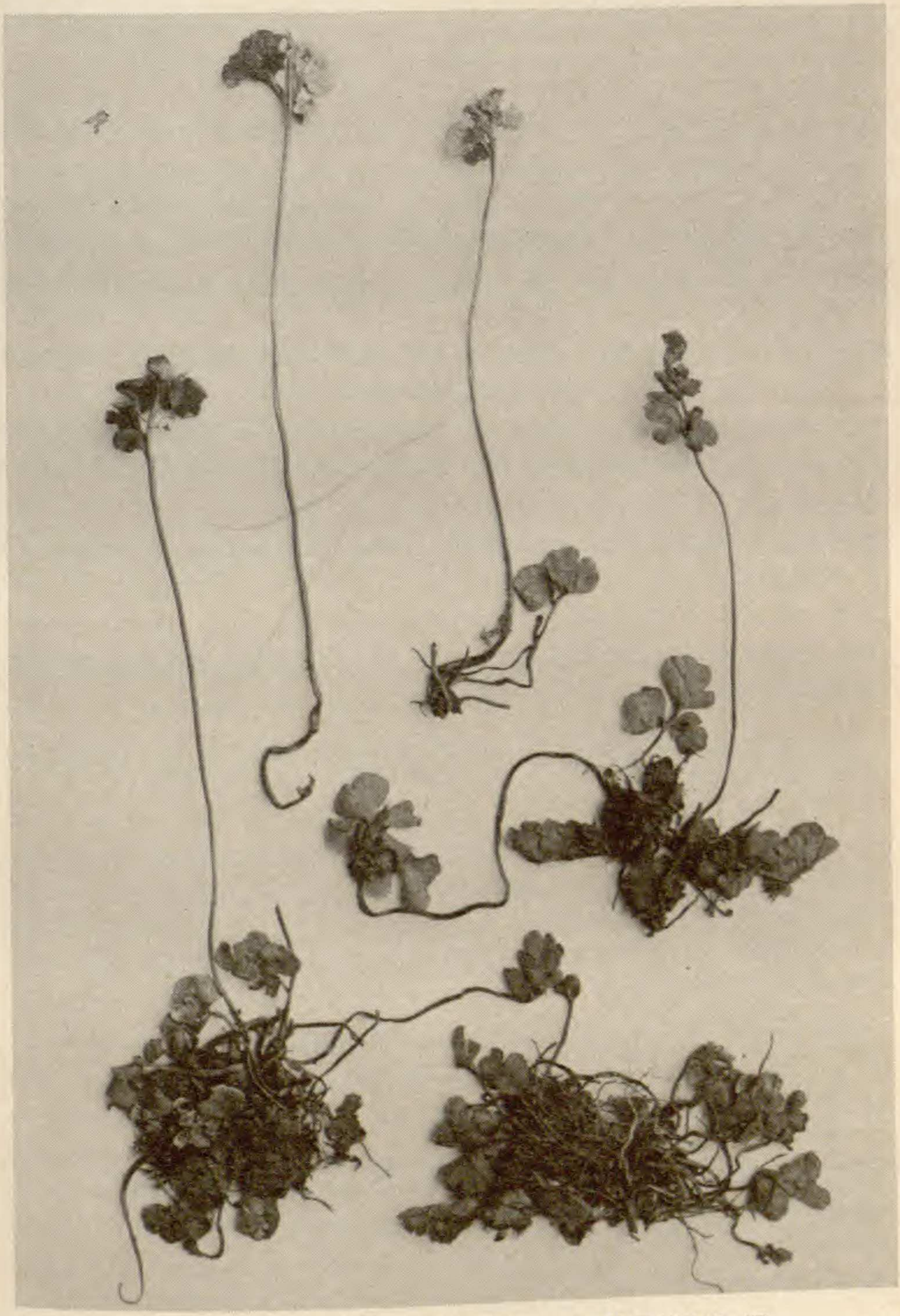
Although twenty years have passed since Dr. William R. Maxon retired from his curatorship, reliquiae of his productive tenure are still uncovered occasionally in the Smithsonian's collections of ferns. Some time ago two specimens were found in a cover labelled "Nephopteris, gen. nov. Colombia" in Maxon's hand; soon after, another specimen was received for identification. Judging by the high altitude at which these plants were collected, "Cloud Fern" is indeed an appropriate generic name.

**Nephopteris maxonii** Lellinger, *gen. et sp. nov.* PLATE 22

Rhizoma repens, aliquantum contortum, 1–2 mm diam., usque ad 2 cm longum, strigosum, frondibus in 3-4 seriebus supra et radicibus infra instructum, trichomatibus acicularibus, recte cylindraceis, 5–10-cellularibus, brunneis, semipatentibus. Frondes dimorphae, coriaceae, imparipinnatae, opacae, glabratae, praeter stipites sparsim strigosos et nitidos, stipitibus et rhachidibus teretibus, sulcatis vel complanatis, ergo rectis sive contortis, brunneis, minute vittatis, maturitate fuscis, pinnis marginibus planis vel leviter revolutis, venulis flabellatis, prominulis, nitidis, brunneis et minute vittatis ad basin, submersis ad margines praecipue in pinnis, fertilibus. Frondes steriles ad 2 cm longae, ascendentes, rhachibus contortis, laminis 3-foliolatis, pinnis late obovatis aliquantum irregularibus, subsessilibus, surcurrentibus, ca. 5 mm longis et latis, pinnis terminalibus maioribus quam pinnis lateralibus. Frondes fertiles (2)3.5–9 cm longae, erectae, stipitibus rectis, basi contortis, laminis (3)5-foliolatis, pinnis plus minusve orbicularibus aliquantum irregularibus, breviter petiolulatis, surcurrentibus, ca. 3–5 mm longis et latis, pinnis lateralibus maioribus quam pinnis terminalibus. Sporangia dispersa, dorsalia et subsessilia in venis, annulis ca. 16-cellulis, paraphysibus multicellulosis, laxis, usque ad 1 mm longis, brunneis, sporangia obtegentibus.

TYPE: Páramo de Chaquiro, Cordillera Occidental, Departments of Bolívar-Antioquia, Colombia; grassy páramo, alt. 3000–3200 m, Feb. 23, 1918, *Francis W. Pennell 4258* (US; isotype NY). If actually collected near the boundary of the two departments, then the locality presumably is about 110 km north-northwest of Medellín, at the south end of the Serrania de Ayapel.



Type Specimen (US) of Nephopteris maxonii n. sp.

PARATYPE: Beside mule trail up the steep "Alto del Oso," just northeast of Cobugon, on the way to Laguna Seca, Sierra Nevada de Cocuy, Cordillera Oriental, Dept. Boyacá, Colombia; on peaty banks on steep, open hillside, alt. ca. 2900–3200 m, Aug. 18, 1957, *P. J. Grubb & D. A. Guymer P.68* (US). Duplicates are probably at BM and CGE. The collectors note that this species was never seen elsewhere.

The two known localities for *N. maxonii* are about 400 km distant and lie on a nearly east-west line in different mountain ranges. This species may well be rather widely distributed at high altitudes in northwestern Colombia, and, if so, has been overlooked, probably because of its small size and the difficulty of collecting in the cold, wet páramos.

It seems most likely that *Nephopteris* is a reduced offshoot of *Eriosorus*, for it resembles that genus far more than it does any of the genera related to *Eriosorus*. The soriation, rhizome and frond indument, stipe coloration, and segment architecture of *N. maxonii* all agree with *Eriosorus*, but the dimorphic fronds that are not large and are neither scandent and indeterminate nor elongate and strongly pinnate are sufficient, in my opinion, to warrant separation of the two genera.

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## Shorter Notes

SOUTHERN RECORDS OF OPHIOGLOSSUM VULGATUM.—In this JOURNAL, volume 56, p. 37, there is a report of what was presumed to be the first find of *Ophioglossum vulgatum* in Mississippi. However, on April 8, 1922, I was visiting in that state and chanced to enter a tract of moist pineland just east of Columbus, Lowndes County. Growing there in the subacid, humus-rich loam were two plants that I had seen not long before in a strikingly different environment—sphagnous meadowland in northern Vermont—namely, *Ophioglossum vulgatum* and the orchid *Listera australis*. Pressed specimens were duly placed in the U. S.